

North China AF12
East China AF15
South China AF17
Southwest China AF16 •
Central China AF14

[For information on population density as of the 1953 Census, see AF13 Northwest China, 1: Washington, cat. 116, pp. 114-115.]

Annex "A," Subparagraph 1c,
Sociological Background

POPULATION

I. DISTRIBUTION, DENSITY, AND GROWTH

A. Distribution

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161 The 1953 nationwide census yielded a set of population figures by province. At the time the census figures were being compiled, the South-west China Region comprised the four provinces of Szechwan, Sikang, Yunnan, and Kweichow. Sikang Province in 1953, however, was not the same as Sikang in the 1940's. Before 1953, Sikiang had been divided in two; only the eastern half retained the name of Sikang Province; the western half was renamed Ch'ang-tu District. Thus the population figure announced in the official communique actually reflected only a part of the pre-Communist province of Sikang. When the results were announced, the Bureau of Census grouped the Ch'ang-tu District population with that of Tibet. On July 30, 1955, the First People's Congress in Peking passed a resolution to abolish the province of Sikang and incorporate its territory into Szechwan Province.¹ This latest move does not

1. Hua-ch'iao Jih-pao [China Daily News], New York, Aug. 3, 1955, p. 1.

635 affect the figure of the total population in the
161 Southwest China Region, because Sikang and
Szechwan provinces had been included in the
1953 census figure for this region; nevertheless,
it changes the distribution according to the
political subdivisions of Southwest China as
follows:

161 Table 1. Population Distribution in Southwest
China *

Kweichow Province	15,037,310
Szechwan Province	65,685,063
Yunnan Province	<u>17,472,737</u>
Regional Total	98,195,110

*Kuang-ming Jih-pao [Enlightenment Daily],
Peking, Nov. 1, 1954, p. 1; Sikang population
is included in Szechwan.

Among all the regions of China, this region ranks
third in population and fourth in size of area.

161 The accuracy of the figures in Table 1 is,
659 of course, still open to question. Doubt may
easily be cast upon these figures on the basis of
one or both of the following facts: (1) The 1953
census-taking was not thorough; in certain areas
where direct counting of noses was not possible,
undefined "indirect" methods (possibly estimates)

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659 were employed. (2) Before the results of the census were announced, responsible Communist quarters had already instituted a campaign to "correct the undesirable habit of filing false reports," and even the Bureau of Statistics had begun to criticize the lack of reliability in the statistical work at various government levels.² Until 1952, the estimates on China's population cited by Communist officials were all under 500 million. Early in 1953, several months before the census figures were completely tabulated, estimates were stepped up to around 550 million. Thus there is ground for suspicion that the Peking government might have intentionally exaggerated the figures for propaganda purposes.³

However, until evidence proving fabrication is discovered, the figures in Table 1 will stand as the result of the first and hereto only direct nationwide census. Relative reliability is further strengthened by the following points: (1) They generally tally with the figures on the electorate,

2. Jen-min Jih-pao [People's Daily], Peking, March 31, 1954, p. 1.

3. Tsui-chin Ch'i-ko-yüeh Lai Chung-yao Fei-ch'ing Tsung-ho Pao-kao [Comprehensive Report on Important Developments in Communist China in the Last Seven Months], Taipei, the Sixth Section, Central Committee, the Nationalist Party, 1954, pp. 22-23.

161 delegates and their representation in the "basic-level election" for which the census was initiated.⁴

659 (2) The fact that scattered reports on the basic-level elections are available, roughly covering all parts of China, should serve to indicate the geographic extent if not the degree of thoroughness with which the census-taking was carried out.

(3) The Communists as far back as 1949 had begun their study on population, and it appears correct to say that the Peking regime had exercised considerable discretion in checking the 1953 census against the previously released figures.

(4) Only a comparatively small portion of the 1953 population figures (about 8 million) was derived from the so-called "indirect method of census-taking." (5) The above cited communique also reported on the review of these figures by the Bureau of Statistics. After rechecking 9 per cent (or 52,950,000) of the total population in a cross-section of many different localities, the duplicates amounted to only 0.139 per cent and those uncounted in the initial registration only 0.255 per cent.

B. Density

161 From the figures in Table 1 it is apparent that Szechwan Province, the richest and only

4. Yuan-li Wu, An Economic Survey of Communist China, New York, Bookman Associates, 1956, pp. 13-22.

96/ extensive plain in Southwest China, is the most populous province in this region and, for that matter, also the most populous among all the provinces of China. The following table, showing density of population, also indicates the unequal distribution among the provinces.

Table 2. Density of Population in Southwest China

	<u>Per Sq. Km.</u>	<u>Per Sq. Mile</u>
Kweichow	88.45	229.08
Szechwan	118.06	305.77
Yunnan	<u>41.60</u>	<u>107.74</u>
Regional Average	85.66	221.85

* 1953 census and Chung-hua Jen-min Kung-ho-kuo Fen-sheng Ti-t'u [Atlas of the People's Republic of China by Provinces], Shanghai, Ti-t'u ch'u-pan-she, 1953; area figure for Szechwan Province has been adjusted to include Sikang Province but exclude the Ch'ang-tu District

The regional average of 221.85 per square mile ranks fourth among China's regions. Within the region, Szechwan Province tops the list, with 305.77 per square mile. It is necessary to

16 point out that earlier works on China's population have assigned greater density figures to Szechwan, although the total population of Szechwan Province was computed at a smaller figure. This sudden change was caused by the inclusion in Szechwan of what was the former Sikang Province, which according to the 1953 census, had only three and one quarter million people in its approximately 100,000 square mile territory.

The density of population varies greatly within this region. In the agriculturally rich Chengtu Basin and along the Yangtze River in Szechwan Province, there are places where over 1,000 people are crowded in a square mile of land, making it as congested as the Yangtze River Delta in East China. On the other hand, no more than one or two persons may be found in many a square mile in the mountains of westernmost Szechwan.

Another comparison may be made of the Southwest China Region and the region in India comprising Punjab, Rajputana, Hyderabad, Bombay, the Northwestern Frontier, the Central Provinces, and Berar, whose total area approximates that of the Southwest China Region. The topographical and climatic features of the two areas are also comparable. The comparison shows that Southwest China is even more crowded than its corresponding region in India, which has an

16) average population density of 172.31 per square mile.⁵

C. Growth

Population figures published before 1953 for this region, as well as for other regions, were estimates and partial census enumerations. The necessary margin of error that accompanies any work of estimation plus the re-demarcation of provincial boundaries tends to reduce the validity of earlier population figures as bases for comparative studies of the population trend in this region. The following table makes use of two sets of earlier figures selected not because of their known accuracy, but because they are the only recent data available.

5. K. Davis, The Population of India and Pakistan, Princeton University Press, 1951.

Table 3. Growth of Population in Southwest China Region*

	1948	1951	1953
Kweichow	10,173,750	13,000,000	15,037,310
Sikang	1,696,600	3,306,738	3,381,064
Szechwan	47,437,387	56,000,000	62,303,999
Yunnan	<u>9,065,921</u>	<u>17,000,000</u>	<u>17,474,737</u>
Regional Total	68,373,658	89,306,738	98,195,110

*The 1948 figures, from Chung-hua Min-kuo T'ung-chi T'i-yao [Statistical Abstracts of the Republic of China], Taipei, Executive Yuan, Directorate-General of Budgets, Accounts & Statistics, 1955, pp. 20-21. The 1951 figures, from Chung-hua Jen-min Kung-ho-kuo Fen-sheng Ti-t'u. The 1953 figures, from the 1953 census announced in Kuang-ming Jih-pao. Note here the province of Sikang has not yet been incorporated into Szechwan.

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If the figures in Table 3 have any accuracy, the net population gain for this region over the five-year period of 1948-53 would be almost 20,000,000, or 30 per cent, a figure far too high to be credible. The Communist government tends to accept this rapid rate of growth and attributes it to increased economic stability and improved social conditions which raise the birth rate and induce people to return to their native towns and villages, but it is far more likely that the figures are an inaccurate reflection of growth in population. The second result, of course, can hardly be established since the increase in population is nationwide and the rate of growth appears to be fairly uniform among all the regions. Perhaps if we examine a few other figures for the province of Szechwan, we will find some pattern:

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Table 4. Population of Szechwan

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>
A.D. 221	900,000
263	940,000
1578	3,102,073
1812	21,453,678
1911	50,217,030
1928	54,000,000
1937	49,948,943
1939	46,403,006

*Cheng Li-chin^e, Ssu-ch'uan Hsin Ti-chih [New Gazeteer of Szechwan], Shanghai, Cheng-chung shu-chü, 1947, pp. 10, 304; Lou Yün-lin, Ssu-ch'uan [Szechwan], Shanghai, Chung-hua shu-chü, 1940, pp. 36, 47-49; Hu Huan-yung, Ssu-ch'uan Ti-li [The Geography of Szechwan], Chungking, Cheng-chung shu-chü, 1938, pp. 102-10.

Although the population in Szechwan doubled in the nineteenth century, it remained stable from the 1930's until the Communist occupation. Unless the frequent civil wars in Szechwan have had a strong, restrictive effect on the population of the province, it would seem that World War II, which was not fought on the soil of Szechwan, should have added to the population by driving more people into Szechwan from Japanese-occupied

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provinces. The only reasonable conclusion that can be drawn is that the estimated census figures in Table 4 are too crude to be relied on for a study of the exact rate of growth of Szechwan's population. One thing, however, should not be overlooked, and that is the fact that previous census-takers failed to include women or children in their population figures.

The New China News Agency reported from Chengtu, Szechwan's provincial capital, on June 14, 1954, that from 1948 to 1953 the population in Szechwan⁶ increased by 12,900,000. This apparently is based on a figure for 1948 other than the one cited in Table 3; otherwise the increase would be a great deal higher than the national average rate of increase. However, in the same New China News Agency dispatch, it is said that 7,888,000 babies have been born since "liberation" in 139 of Szechwan's 154 municipalities and hsien. With infant mortality taken into consideration, this would indicate that anywhere from three and four million people of the above-mentioned 12,900,000 population increase for Szechwan during 1948-53 were not born in Szechwan but migrated to that province.

6. Quoted in Survey of China Mainland Press, Hong Kong, U. S. Consulate-General, No. 834, June 14, 1954, pp. 20-21.

161 To substantiate official reports, the Census Bureau at Peking released some scattered information on various localities. The growth of population was studied, for example, by taking one hsiang (group of villages) from each of 17 hsien in Szechwan. On July 1, 1953, the total population of the designated village groups stood at 144,981. Sixty days later, the same communities showed an aggregate net gain of 581. The rate of increase in this random sampling of communities thus amounts to approximately 24 per thousand, or about 2.4 per cent per annum.

Or take the population growth at Nan-pu hsien, one of the more populous counties in Szechwan. In the twelve months immediately preceding the census, 29,561 babies were born to Nan-pu's 789,000 people, which would give a birth rate of approximately 3.7 per cent.⁸

From these available samplings, it may be safe to conclude that in default of detailed information on population movements, the natural rate of increase in this region is close to the national average.

7. Kuang-ming Jih-pao [Enlightenment Daily], Peking, March 30, 1954, p. 1.

8. Loc. cit.

621 with which his own has built an enduring pattern of reciprocal favors and obligations. It is in the farming villages that the Communists are seeking to bring about fundamental changes in the way of life and to break up the old complex of family and local loyalties.

What are the patterns of village life common to the old settled Szechwan plain and the more recently colonized areas of the Southwest? We shall sketch these before discussing the variations represented by urban life.

A. The Pattern of Village Life

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241 First of all, life in the farming village is meager. In Szechwan in 1946 the average farm was 3.9 acres, and the average square mile provided food for 650 people. In Kweichow the average farm was 3.2 acres, 241 in Yunnan 3.1. ¹ Farm families save everything; fecal matter and refuse go into a pit

- 161 1. George B. Cressey, Land of the 500 Million: A Geography of China, New York, 1955, pp. 105, 178. The richest part of Szechwan, the Chengtu plain, has a population density of 2,300 people per square mile. Ibid., 241 p. 178. As we consider the pattern of agricultural life in the Southwest, the following data on the nature and distribution of farming throughout the area should be kept

361 coastal to the inland cities. The streets are
369 sometimes paved, and schools, newspapers,
motion pictures, and radio make the people
more aware of the outside world than are their
cousins in the towns and villages. In Shanghai
and other modern cities, major industries
built large dormitories for workers, labor
unions and political clubs developed as new
foci for society activity. World War II brought
a measure of industrial life to the Southwest.
Yet the living conditions grew worse as workers
961 moved into the cities. Crowding reached un-
361 believable proportions. The figures for
Chengtu suggest the dimensions of this problem
in all urban centers. Chengtu, with pre-
dominately one-storied buildings, had a
population density of 50,000 per square mile
as compared²² 22,500 per square mile in New
[464] York City.¹³ One survey suggests that
workers in the newer industries were somewhat
better off than workers in the traditional trades,¹
but their traditional holidays were shortened
without, in most cases, the introduction of a
369 six-day week. In the crowded cities the festivals
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13. Winfield, op. cit., p. 88. These
figures would seem to be for the period 1945-47.

14. Lang, op. cit., pp. 88-89.

PART I

INTRODUCTION

THE PROVINCE OF YÜN-NAN

- 101 Yün-nan 雲南 (South of the clouds) is the second largest province of China, and is situated in the extreme south-west of that vast country. Its area is approximately 146,700 square miles, and in 1933 it had a population of 11,795,486, or about 80.4 persons to the square mile. Of this population 6,095,549 were male, and 5,699,937 were female, and 88.88 per cent of the entire population was illiterate.
- [242] In the north it borders on Ssu-ch'uan 四川 and Hsi-k'ang 西康, in the west on Hsi-tsang 西藏 (Tibet) and Mien-tien 緬甸 (Burma). In the south it adjoins the south-eastern Shan States of Burma and also Indo-China, while in the east it borders on the Chinese provinces of Kuei-chou 貴州 and Kuang-hsi 廣西.
- 131 Yün-nan is a high table-land, intersected by some of the largest rivers of Asia, such as the Yangtze, Mekong, and Salween, and by the eastern branch of the Irrawadi (the Ch'iu Chiang 球江 of the Chinese) in the extreme west. These rivers flow parallel to each other for a considerable distance in terrific gorges. The intervening mountain ranges, which in the extreme north-west reach heights of 22,000 feet, are crowned by eternal snow. Of these the Mekong-Salween divide forms, in part, the Tibet - Yün-nan border. The altitude increases in the north-west, and we find towns at 11,500 feet elevation.
- [361] In the south, the province is partly covered with tropical jungle where tigers roam and malaria is prevalent, and where the Tai or Shan hold undisputed sway, as no Yünnanese will live below an altitude of 4,000 feet. Here the water-buffalo is at home, and rice is the main crop.
- [243] In the north the yak grazes on the high alpine meadows, and barley is grown at 12,000 feet. The yak furnishes the inhabitants with meat, milk, butter and cheese; its dung (argols) is used as fuel and its hair for the weaving of cloth for tents; it also serves as a transport animal. Here barley takes the place of rice and is the staple food of the Tibetans.
- 231 The capital of the province is Yün-nan fu, situated at an altitude of 6,400 feet, on a large plain surrounded by mountains. Near it is the famous lake known as Tien Ch'ih 滇池 or K'un-yang 昆陽. To-day Yün-nan fu is called K'un-ming 昆明, which, during the reign of Han Wu Ti, was the land of I-chou Chün 益州郡. While the name K'un-ming is an ancient one it seems not to have been applied to the land which bears that name to-day prior to the Yüan (Mongol) dynasty. The *K'un-ming hsien chih* speaks of three K'un-mings. In the oldest geographical record of Yün-nan we read, however, that the name K'un-ming had first been given to the lake at Yün-nan fu by General Chuang Ch'iao of the State of Ch'u in about 280 B.C. (see Note 3, page 6).
- 101 As this is not a history and geography of the whole of Yün-nan, but only of a specified area in its north-west, namely the region now occupied by the Mo-so

CHAPTER IV

WESTERN AND NORTH-WESTERN YUNG-NING

I. AGRICULTURE, ACCESS AND INHABITANTS

Yung-ning 永寧

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The most important part of Yung-ning from an agricultural standpoint, is of course its plain (PLATE 220), which to-day supports 300 families, although 1,000 families could subsist there if rice were cultivated, and all arable land were utilized. Only one half of the plain is now under cultivation, and rice is prohibited from being grown for political reasons. Maize, barley, buckwheat and round peas are the main crops. The plain has a plentiful water supply, as the Hli gyi or K'ai-chi Ho 開基河 [also called Lo-chi Ho 勒汲河 pronounced Le-chi Ho in Yung-ning] winds through it, receiving several affluents in its course over the plain. The latter is at an elevation of 9,500 feet, is perfectly flat, and extends east to the foot of Lion Mountain (Seng-ge ga-mu). In the remote past the Yung-ning plain was undoubtedly a lake, similar to the Lu-ku Lake, which lies 100 feet higher. The plain is surrounded by mountains with many valleys debouching into it; the only outlet is the valley which leads into the Ch'ien-so country in Ssu-ch'uan. The eastern and north-eastern end of the plain is still marshy.

The next place of importance is the long Tsui-yi valley called Wa-erh-lo 挖耳羅 in Chinese, which extends south of Wua-ha Shan, west into the Yangtze. This is a very fertile valley and rice is planted in the middle upper half; the lower part is a dry, arid canyon with steep walls; the head of the valley is wooded.

To the west of Yung-ning is another long valley called Luë-dzu law-k'aw, which also extends into the Yangtze, with another valley joining it called Hër-dü, the Har-lër-dü of the Na-khi. These valleys unite a short distance before debouching west into the Yangtze, south of San-chiang-k'ou 三江口. The remaining arable land is along the Yangtze, especially at Pu-chio 卜脚 or Law-k'a-khi-llü [also called P'u-dyü]; then along the Zho Chhu on the Hsi-k'ang border in the west of Yung-ning, and at Pa-erh-ch'iao 壩耳橋, south of Yung-ning; and finally the few fields along the shore of the Lu-ku Hü or Yung-ning Lake.

The rest of the country is exceedingly mountainous. The highest peaks are on Wua-ha Shan, which is the northern part of the Yao Shan to the east of Yung-ning. These reach 15,500 feet or more in height.

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Access. — The main approaches to Yung-ning from the south are from Yung-pei, north via Lang-ch'ü chou, the present Ning-lang 寧浪; then from Li-chiang via the Yangtze at either T'o-lä-tsu or Chiang-wai 江外, up the Tsui-yi valley opposite Chiang-wai which is the shortest route. The northern route is via Feng-k'o 佛可 or Shang-feng-k'o 上佛可.

361 Mien-ning Hsien, there are three flourishing towns Lu-ku, Li-chou, and Tê-ch'ang, and a large number of big villages, many of which must contain some hundreds of houses.

241 The whole of the plain¹ is fairly well cultivated. In the extreme northern part round Mien-ning there is not much rice grown, and wheat, maize, and opium are the principal crops. But through the greater part of the valley there is plenty of rice cultivation, while wheat, beans, and opium are grown as winter crops. The white wax insect tree and the mulberry as food for silkworms are also cultivated. Copper and iron are mined in the hills, and probably much more mining could be done if the Lo-lo country to the east of the valley were more settled. Coal is found in the hills east of Ch'i-lung, a large village a few miles north of Li-chou.

438 I met nothing in the way of trading caravans except [288] some native-made cotton cloth from Ya-chou Fu, carried in the Ssü-ch'uan fashion by men on foot, for mule or pony transport is but little used in this province. It is with this Chinese-woven stuff that the inhabitants of the valley are chiefly clothed. They find it cheaper, warmer, and more durable than the more finely woven products of England or India. No doubt much more trade passes along this road in April when the crops of white wax insects and opium are being gathered.

• 161 The whole population of the Chien-ch'ang Valley I estimate at 150,000. Though there are plains in Yün-nan which, both in riches and in density of population, would, in *proportion to their size*, compare favourably with this valley, yet there is certainly nowhere in Yün-nan such a large extent of well-populated country all in one plain.

672 At Lu-ku an unpleasant incident occurred. Lachman Jadu, the surveyor, had a lot of his things stolen out of his room in the inn. On a journey of this sort no one has any superfluous kit and the loss of almost any article is serious. By Chinese custom the innkeeper is responsible for any theft that takes place in his house, and accordingly I took him with me the next day and handed him over to the nearest official, the *Hsün-chien* at Mien-shan. As far as 000 I know the thief was never caught.

Following up the eastern source of the An-ning Ho
1 [Chien-ch'ang valley -- Analyst]

APPENDIX II

THE AREA, POPULATION AND INHABITANTS OF
YÜN-NAN.

13/ ROUGH measurements on the map give the area of the province of Yün-nan as about 150,000 square miles, and this may be accepted as approximately correct.

• 16/ To estimate the population is a far more difficult matter. It is probable that fifty years ago the numbers were greater than at the present day, for doubtless great loss of life and emigration to other provinces took place during the Panthay rebellion, which lasted from 1854 to 1873. Since then the province has slowly recovered, and while the indigenous population has increased, there has also been a constant and steadily increasing stream of immigration from the neighbouring province of Ssü-ch'uan.

After my second journey in Yün-nan I made a rough calculation of the density of population to the square mile over those tracts of country which I had surveyed the most thoroughly. In all of these I had noted the number of houses in the towns and villages, and I allowed an average of six persons to each house.

The result gave about 400 to the square mile in the plains, and 40 to the square mile in the hilly tracts. Taking the whole province I calculate that about one-fifteenth of the total area is plain land, and the remainder hills. This then would give 10,000 square miles with a population of 400 to the mile, and 140,000 square miles with a population of 40 to the mile.

$$\begin{aligned} 10,000 \times 400 &= 4,000,000 \text{ in the plains,} \\ 140,000 \times 40 &= 5,600,000 \text{ in the hills.} \end{aligned}$$

Total population 9,600,000.

[p. 306]

Area, Population and Inhabitants 307

My very rough methods of calculation naturally give only an approximate result, but in default of any better estimate the population of Yün-nan may be taken as about ten millions¹. 161 •

This population is divided between very sparsely peopled mountains, which form the greater part of Yün-nan, and very thickly inhabited plains which, though they only comprise about a fifteenth of the area of the province, contains nearly half of its inhabitants. 162 563

In the plains the population is mainly Chinese², but not entirely so, for in the cold plateaus of the north-west are found Tibetans, while many of the low-lying plains of the south are inhabited by Shans. Moreover in the centre of the province some of the plains are peopled by Ming-chias, while an admixture of Lo-los is occasionally found. At a guess I should say that about four-fifths to nine-tenths of the population of the plains are Chinese, including under this name those who, even if of aboriginal extraction, are now in language and customs undistinguishable from the ruling race.

In the hills things are different. Here, as in the plains, one also finds the Chinese, and there is no large tract of country without Chinese villages in it. But living among them and forming the bulk of the hill population are numerous other tribes, each with its own language and its own customs³.

In the north-west corner are Tibetans, and the semi-Tibetan Mo-so race. On the Burmese border are Kachins and Palaungs; also in the west of the province, but extending further into the interior, are the Li-sos; everywhere throughout Yün-nan are the Lo-los, a fine race and more numerous than any other hill tribe. Equally widely distributed are the Miaos, but they are only found in small and scattered communities. In the south-west, between the Salween and the Mekong, are the La-hus, who with their cross-bows and poisoned arrows proved formidable

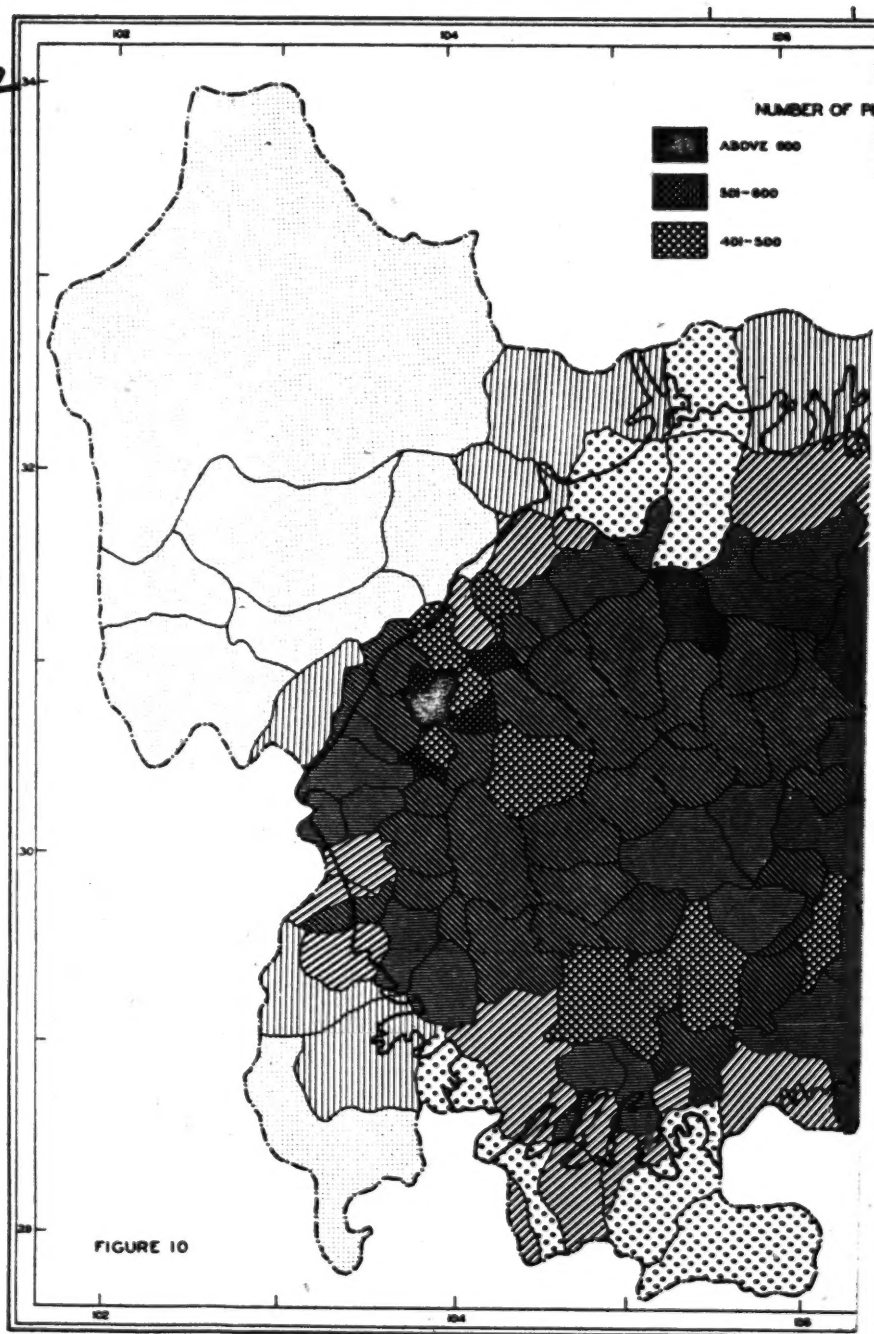
¹ Some recent Chinese figures give Yün-nan a population of about 12,000,000, but these are said to be unreliable. The late Mr Litton, of the Consular Service, who had much experience of Yün-nan, estimated the number of inhabitants at 9,000,000.

² Among the Chinese I include the Panthays or Chinese Mahommedans.

³ For details about these tribes see Appendix VIII.

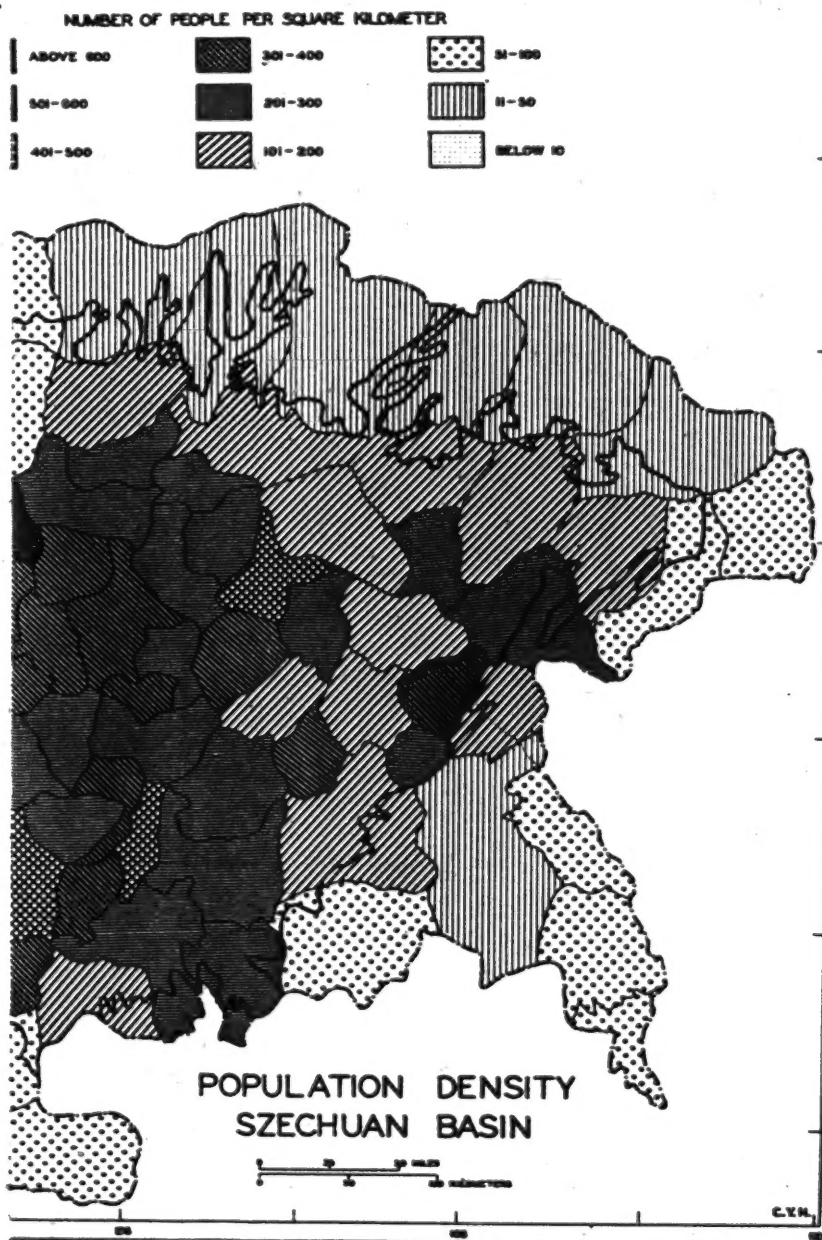
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[End map 6 (a)]

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[End map 6 (b)]

-14-

13/ much smaller than the total assigned to the Basin by other investigators who use different criteria for its delimitation.¹

The Basin, thus delimited (Fig. 2),² in its rough outline, is much like a trapezoid. The four angles of the trapezoid are marked approximately by the four well-known districts, namely, Kuang-yuan in the north, Ya-an² in the west, Sui-yung in the south, and Feng-chieh in the east (Fig. 2). The use of these four districts as the principal corner-posts of the Basin is not only topographically sound (i.e., they all lie within the limit of the same 700-meter contour line) but geographically accurate. For instance, northern Kuang-yuan marks approximately the northern limit of bamboo growths in the Basin.³ Structurally, Feng-chieh, being at the head of the famous Yangtze gorges, marks approximately the eastern limit of the cretaceous formations in this part of China. Ya-an, strictly speaking, lies at a transitional zone between Chinese and Tibetan cultures; whereas Sui-yung is situated at a crossroad between the fertile Basin to the north and the desolate mountain areas of Kweichow to the south (Fig. 2).

16/ The total population of Szechuan is estimated as between fifty million⁴ and seventy million⁵ persons. Since there is no official census, most students are rightly skeptical about the accuracy of these estimates. In 1937 the Bureau of Civilian Affairs of the Szechuan Provincial Government first undertook a fairly thorough survey of the total population of the province. According to this report (Population by Hsien, Appendix I, Table 1), the total population of the province is 48,436,624 persons.⁶

¹Cf. Cressey, *op. cit.*, p. 312; J. L. Buck, Land Utilization in China (1937), p. 79; Nai Tsiang Jen, Journal of China's Geographical Society, III, No. 4 (December, 1936), 727.

²This district, together with the other thirteen districts of southwest Szechuan, is now, by order of the National Government incorporated into the province of Sikang (Report of Szechuan Provincial Government [1940], p. 3).

³See Figure 8.

⁴Report of the Imperial Ministry of Interior (1898).

⁵Later in 1916, since the Republic, the report of the Ministry of Interior and the estimates of the Post Office both affirmed this number of seventy million persons (Report of the Viceroy of Szechuan [1910]).

⁶Bureau of Civilian Affairs, Szechuan Provincial Government, Population Statistics (1937).

¹[See end map 2 -- Analyst]

-18-

The total number of people in the province at the present time is estimated at about fifty-six million persons. This means an increase of seven or eight million inhabitants during the past few years as a result of the mass migration from the lower Yangtze Valley.¹ As the total land area of the province is 360,159 square kilometer² (excluding areas for districts recently incorporated under Sikang jurisdiction), this gives an average population density for the province as a whole of 135 persons per square kilometer. For the Basin proper, as delimited in the present study, the total population is approximately 43,000,000 persons.³ Thus in the same manner, the average population density for the Basin proper is 285 persons per square kilometer. 161 •

The Szechuan Basin with its present population constitutes a miniature melting-pot within the great melting-pot of China. The influx of the new and many heterogeneous groups of immigrants into the Basin (especially since the famous massacre of the Chang Hsien Chung of late Ming dynasty) brought with it many new ideas and new techniques, particularly in connection with agricultural practices. This later fact helps to account, as we shall see later, for the present heterogeneity of its agricultural landscape.

A. Major Natural Elements of the Basin

1. Surface Configuration

The Szechuan Basin is a great synclinal depression surrounded by moderate to high mountains. The "basin" character of this area is demonstrated graphically by two cross-section profiles, one drawn along the line 30.30 N. parallel (Fig. 3) and the other along the 106 E. Meridian (Fig. 4). As these profiles show, the land slopes toward the center of the Basin from all directions. This is particularly conspicuous from north and northwest to south and southeast, as is further evidenced by the direction of the northwest-southeast flow of the main tributaries of the Yangtze (Fig. 5). 133

¹Report of Chungking Municipality (1940).

²Szechuan Provincial Government, Report of the Bureau of Military Survey (1939).

³This figure is arrived at by the writer by subtracting population of all Hsien (counties) lying outside of the boundaries of the Basin as delimited in the present study.

-121-

TABLE 1

TOTAL POPULATION AND POPULATION DENSITY
OF SZECHUAN BASIN (1937)
(By Hsien)

Name of District	Total Land Area (In Sq. Kilometer)	Total Population	Population Density (No. of Persons per Sq. Kilometer)
1. Ching-Hua.....	2,875	11,151	4
2. Li-Fan.....	11,984	22,749	2
3. Miao-Hsien.....	6,453	33,462	5
4. Pai-Chuan.....	1,716	28,313	16
5. Ping-Wu.....	6,079	79,243	13
6. Chao-Hua.....	1,541	104,197	67
7. Kuang-Yuan.....	6,151	140,572	23
8. Nan-Chiang.....	4,686	169,572	36
9. Tung-Chiang.....	4,980	238,421	47
10. Wan-Yuan.....	4,117	154,000	37
11. Cheng-Ko.....	4,307	60,861	14
12. Fu-Hsi.....	3,516	141,856	45
13. Fu-Shan.....	2,646	148,270	56
14. Kiao-Kung.....	18,734	23,675	2
15. Wen-Chuan.....	3,242	18,594	6
16. An-Hsien.....	1,428	175,165	122
17. Chang-Ming.....	939	106,578	113
18. Chiang-Yu.....	2,651	239,577	91
19. Chien-Ko.....	3,457	275,344	80
20. Tsang-Hsi.....	2,399	259,243	108
21. Pa-Chung.....	4,737	540,453	114
22. Hsuan-Han.....	4,340	444,669	102
23. Kai-Hsien.....	3,700	662,481	179
24. Yun-Yang.....	3,369	517,398	154
25. Feng-Chieh.....	4,457	357,746	80
26. Pao-Hsin.....	1,679	21,022	13
27. Kuan-Hsien.....	989	306,812	319
28. Peng-Hsien.....	895	374,599	417
29. Shih-Fang.....	746	212,890	283
30. Kien-Chu.....	638	275,760	430
31. Lo-Chiang.....	699	154,042	222
32. Kien-Yang.....	1,565	431,878	275
33. Tzu-Tung.....	595	166,586	278
34. Nan-Pu.....	2,922	711,508	244
35. Nan-Chung.....	1,481	379,696	256
36. I-Lung.....	1,578	331,686	211
37. Ying-Shan.....	1,764	442,980	251
38. Ta-Hsien.....	3,549	615,198	173
39. Kai-Chiang.....	1,040	209,605	202
40. Wan-Hsien.....	3,667	780,787	213
41. Tsung-Nai.....	1,503	394,769	263
42. Ta-I.....	1,081	289,163	267
43. Tsung-Ching.....	1,116	393,333	352
44. Wen-Chiang.....	251	173,988	693
45. Tsung-Min.....	178	92,014	516
46. Pi-Hsien.....	273	184,922	677

-122-

TABLE 1—Continued

•161

Name of District	Total Land Area (In Sq. Kilo- meter)	Total Population	Population Density (No. of Per- sons per Sq. Kilometer)
47. Shin-Fang.....	159	102,685	646
48. Sin-Tu.....	344	145,770	420
49. Kuang-Han.....	499	268,561	538
50. Te-Yang.....	512	203,632	400
51. Chung-Chiang.....	2,458	927,952	377
52. San-Tai.....	2,733	959,632	352
53. Yen-Ting.....	1,237	320,087	258
54. Si-Chung.....	999	356,301	357
55. Nan-Chung.....	2,636	900,590	340
56. Peng-An.....	1,638	363,240	222
57. Chu-Hsien.....	1,657	728,049	439
58. Ta-Chu.....	1,826	418,139	230
59. Liang-Shan.....	2,408	416,790	170
60. Chung-Hsien.....	1,569	501,220	319
61. Shih-Chu.....	2,071	184,627	89
62. Ming-Shan.....	622	134,819	217
63. Pu-Chiang.....	501	129,135	258
64. Sin-Tsing.....	316	160,909	509
65. Peng-Shan.....	425	160,008	377
66. Shuan-Liu.....	288	134,716	467
67. Hua-Yang.....	957	378,330	395
68. Cheng-Tu.....	246	125,491	510
Cheng-Tu Municip.	41	496,128	12,101
69. Ching-Tan.....	1,411	535,357	397
70. Chien-Yang.....	2,502	1,026,158	411
71. Lo-Chi.....	1,158	447,354	387
72. Siu-Ning.....	1,814	703,152	388
73. Peng-Hsi.....	1,974	718,603	364
74. Shei-Hung.....	1,399	546,760	391
75. Wu-Sheng.....	1,079	358,342	332
76. Yo-Chi.....	1,859	556,690	300
77. Kuang-An.....	1,707	630,800	371
78. Liang-Shui.....	1,897	365,756	193
79. Tien-Chiang.....	1,706	299,110	170
80. Feng-Tu.....	858	224,442	88
81. Peng-Shui.....	9,131	207,777	23
82. Chien-Chiang.....	2,237	115,681	52
83. Yu-Yang.....	3,665	362,357	98
84. Siu-Shan.....	1,440	125,648	87
85. Tang-Ling.....	724	89,539	124
86. Mei-Shan.....	1,035	395,586	382
87. Jen-Shou.....	2,516	998,404	397
88. Tzu-Yang.....	1,733	591,491	340
89. An-Yo.....	2,769	760,020	275
90. Tung-Nan.....	1,751	402,957	230
91. Ho-Chuan.....	2,840	807,395	284
92. Chiang-Pei.....	2,472	662,718	278
93. Chang-Sheo.....	1,138	389,422	342
94. Pei-Ling.....	5,520	1,026,758	186
95. Hung-Ya.....	1,523	202,946	135

-123-

TABLE 1-Continued

Name of District	Total Land Area (In Sq. Kilo- meter)	Total Population	Population Density (No. of Per- sons per Sq. Kilometer)
96. Chia-Chiang.....	420	160,032	381
97. Ching-Shen.....	409	124,695	304
98. Ching-Yen.....	628	192,954	307
99. Yung-Hsien.....	1,965	593,929	302
100. Wei-Yuan.....	781	259,736	332
101. Tzu-Chung.....	1,905	731,856	384
102. Nei-Chiang.....	1,599	600,146	374
103. Yung-Chang.....	899	367,513	409
104. Ta-Cho.....	1,316	395,279	300
105. Tung-Liang.....	1,479	497,587	337
106. Pih-Shan.....	811	332,603	410
107. Pa-Hsien.....	3,312	911,492	275
107a. Chung-King Municip.....	94	453,427	4,824
108. Nan-Chuan.....	3,029	293,344	97
109. O-Pien.....	2,738	50,175	18
110. O-Mei.....	1,272	144,454	113
111. Lo-Shan.....	1,867	389,306	208
112. Chien-Wei.....	1,954	516,502	260
113. I-Ping.....	4,230	802,924	189
114. Fu-Shun.....	2,207	953,487	432
115. Lung-Chang.....	761	318,842	419
116. Lu-Hsien.....	2,913	954,649	328
117. Yung-Chuan.....	1,288	390,020	302
118. Chiang-Tsin.....	3,253	840,368	258
119. Chi-Chiang.....	1,839	406,270	221
120. Lei-Po.....	4,814	19,622	4
121. Ma-Pien.....	2,624	32,925	13
122. Ping-Shan.....	2,891	264,217	91
123. Kao-Hsien.....	1,394	139,482	100
124. Ching-Fu.....	1,077	174,113	162
125. Nan-Hsi.....	957	254,051	265
126. Chiang-An.....	740	213,262	288
127. Nei-Hsi.....	477	72,468	147
128. Ho-Chiang.....	2,329	383,771	165
129. Yung-Lien.....	342	62,246	182
130. Chi-Hsien.....	1,197	129,747	108
131. Chang-Ning.....	1,295	219,576	169
132. Hsing-Wen.....	526	63,763	121
133. Ku-Sung.....	598	100,040	167
134. Siu-Yung.....	2,916	286,046	98
135. Ku-Ning.....	5,589	362,210	65
136. Sung-Pan.....	50,139	22,533	2
Total.....	360,159	48,436,624	135

161 ●